

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-20 ACDA-19

AF-10 ARA-16 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 INT-08 FEA-02 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8952

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, MO, SP, XF, CU, EMIN

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO SPAIN

MAY 12-15

REF: AMMAN 2769

1. SUMMARY: KING HUSSEIN MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN MAY 12-15
AND RECEIVED UNPRECEDENTED TREATMENT BY FRANCO. TWO LEADERS HELD
EXTENSIVE TALKS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, PARTICULARLY JOINT
INTEREST IN FUTURE STATUS OF JERUSALEM. FRANCO WAS REPORTEDLY
IMPRESSED BY KING'S PESSIMISTIC EVALUATION OF SOVIET
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INTENTIONS, I.E. TO MAINTAIN BRUSHFIRES AS MEANS OF PERPETURATING

ARAB NEED FOR SOVIET SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH HUSSEIN VOICED CONFIDENCE IN POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATION OF ISRAELI-SYRIAN FORCES. SPANIARDS AND JORDANIANS ALSO DISCUSSED FEASIBILITY OF JOINT PHOSPHATE MARKETING ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING MOROCCO. MFA REPORTS THAT CUBANS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAINING SYRIAN COMMANDO UNITS. END SUMMARY.

2. KING HUSSEIN VISITED SPAIN MAY 12-15 AS OFFICIAL GUEST OF FRANCO. IT WAS HIS FIFTH VISIT TO SPAIN SINCE 1955, INCLUDING TWO PRIVATE VISITS IN 1967 AND 1973. ALTHOUGH INVITED BY FRANCO, HUSSEIN ALSO SAW PRINCE JUAN CARLOS WHOM HE SAW DURING TECHNICAL STOP AT TORREJON IN MARCH THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO MFA, FRANCO SET PRECEDENT BY HOSTING PRIVATE LUNCHEON AT HIS RESIDENCE AT EL PARDO, SOMETHING WHICH HE HAD NEVER DONE EVEN FOR HEADS OF STATE FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. SPANISH PRESS AND COMMENTARIES HAVE UNDERSCORED CLOSE TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY AS RESULT OF FORMER JORDANIAN KING ABDULLAH'S VISIT IN POST-WORLD WAR II PERIOD, ONE OF FIRST BY ANY HEAD OF STATE TO SPAIN DURING OSTRACISM BY WORLD COMMUNITY.

3. HUSSEIN MADE UNUSUAL STATEMENT ON SPANISH TV IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED "GREAT APPRECIATION FOR SPAIN'S POSTURE IN MIDDLE EAST AND WITH ARAB COUNTRIES". "SPAIN SUPPORTS AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES THE TRUTH OF THE ARAB WORLD." OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF VISIT MENTIONED THAT MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED WITH FRANCO AND AT MFA.

4. HUSSEIN VISITED SPANISH CASA AIRCRAFT PLANT OUTSIDE MADRID WHICH BUILDS F-5 UNDER US LICENSE. GOJ HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED INTEREST IN USING SPANISH FACILITIES FOR PERIODIC MAINTENANCE OF F-5'S RECEIVED FROM US KING'S ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ABDEL MUNIEM RIFAI, ALSO HELD LENGTHY MEETING AT FMA WITH FONMIN CORTINA.

5. MFA DIRECTOR OF NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIANS:

6. JERUSALEM: GOS AND GOJ HAVE ALMOST IDENTICAL VIEWS ON FUTURE STATUS OF CITY, BELIEVING THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE INTERNATIONALIZED BUT ADMINISTERED UNDER AEGIS OF INTERESTED PARTIES WITH A GUARANTEE BY TWO WORLD POWERS. INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD INCLUDE JORDAN, ISRAEL, SPAIN, REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE FAITHS WITH HOLY PLACES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CITY, AND PERHAPS SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. (IN SIMILAR VEIN, FRANCO ONCE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ONLY SOLUTION FOR JERUSALEM WOULD BE ONE ADOPTED FOR TANGIERS EARLIER THIS CENTURY). SPAIN'S INTEREST STEMS FROM FACT THAT GOS, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO SPANISH RELIGIOUS ORDERS, IS LARGEST SINGLE PROPERTY HOLDER AMONG CHRISTIAN OR ORTHODOX CHURCHES. MOST OF THIS PROPERTY IS IN "OLD CITY" FORMERLY UNDER JORDANIAN CONTROL WHICH EXPLAINS GOS INTEREST IN CLOSE TIES WITH JORDAN. ACCORDING TO MFA, GOS HAS NOT

COORDINATED POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO JERUSALEM WITH VATICAN, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS OBVIOUS "COINCIDENCE" IN POSITIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND VATICAN.

7. ISRAELI-SYRIAN SITUATION. HUSSEIN TOLD FRANCO, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY MUCH IMPRESSED, THAT SOVIETS, AFTER SEEING HOW SADAT TURNED HIMSELF AROUND WITH US, WERE NOT DISPOSED TO FAVOR SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST. HUSSEIN EXPLAINED THAT SOVIETS HAD DECIDED THAT THEIR INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BEST WITH CONTINUING BRUSHFIRES IN AREA WHICH WOULD FORCE ARABS TO LEAN ON THEM FOR SUPPORT. SADAT'S "PRECIPITOUS" TURNAROUND HAD HAD EFFECT OF INDUCING SOVIETS TO GIVE ALMOST UNLIMITED POLITICAL/MILITARY SUPPORT TO SYRIANS WHO NOW THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD DO BETTER THAN THE EGYPTIANS IN NEGOTIATING A SEPARATION OF FORCES WITH ISRAEL. HUSSEIN NONETHELESS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI-SYRIAN AGREEMENT. IN AN ASIDE, MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT GOS HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH APPARENT EFFECTIVENESS OF SOVIET AID TO SYRIA AND SYRIAN ABILITY TO REACH MILITARY STANDOFF WITH ISRAEL.

8. WEST BANK'S FUTURE. HUSSEIN TOLD FRANCO THAT HE CONTINUED TO HAVE HOPES OF REGAINING WEST BANK, PERHAPS AT CONCLUSION OF LONG PROCESS OF ACCOMMODATION WITH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS. HE REFERRED TO NEED TO MAKE JORDAN ITSELF AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE FOR PALESTINIANS WHERE THEY COULD FIND PROMISING ECONOMIC FUTURE. HE REPORTED POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES OF OIL AND DEVELOPING JORDAN'S PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS AS MEANS OF ENHANCING COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. CRUX OF MATTER, HUSSEIN EXPLAINED, WAS NEED TO INVOLVE PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN'S FUTURE WHICH WOULD IN TURN STRENGTHEN CHANCES FOR RE-INCORPORATION OF WEST BANK.

9. SPANISH-JORDANIAN-MOROCCAN PHOSPHATE COLLABORATION. SPANIARDS AND JORDANIANS DISCUSSED PROPOSAL THAT, IN COLLABORATION WITH MOROCCO, THEY
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SET UP JOINT PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ORGANIZATION FOR PHOSPHATES. JORDAN APPARENTLY NEEDED HELP IN DEVELOPING ITS DEPOSITS AND COULD TURN TO SPAIN AND MOROCCO FOR CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SPAIN WOULD REPRESENT INTERESTS OF THE "SAHARAN PEOPLE" AND ALL PROCEEDS FROM EXPLOITATION OF SAHARAN PHOSPHATES WOULD BE RESERVED FOR "SAHARAN PEOPLE." MFA OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOS, IN WAKE OF PORTUGUESE EVENTS, FELT COMPELLED TO MOVE FASTER TOWARDS SELF-DETERMINATION OF SPANISH SAHARA AND THAT PROPOSAL WAS ONE MEANS OF PLACATING ARAB SENSIBILITIES, ABEIT NOT WITH MOST TROUBLESOME ARAB COUNTRIES, E.G. LIBYA. (OFFICIAL IN PRESIDENCY TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS MAY 19 THAT FORMER FONMIN CASTIELLA AND MANY OTHER LEADERS WERE PUSHING HARD TO DISENGAGE SPAIN FROM SAHARA.) ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCK TO PROPOSAL WAS MOROCCO BECAUSE OF ITS DESIRE TO TAKE OVER THE

PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS IN SPANISH SAHARA, WHICH ARE EXTENSION OF THOSE IN MORROCCO.

10. CUBANS IN SYRIA. MFA OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT SPANISH EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY NUMBER OF CUBANS ASSIGNED TO PARA-MILITARY AND MILITARY TASKS IN SYRIA. SOME WERE INVOLVED IN TRAINING SYRIAN COMMANDOS AND THERE WERE EVEN REPORTS THAT SOME HAD TAKEN PART IN SOME RAIDS.

11. COMMENT: BESIDES COMMON INTEREST IN JERUSALEM AND MIDDLE EAST, SPAIN AND JORDAN SHARE INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING INSTITUTION OF MONARCHY. HUSSEIN AND JUAN CARLOS (AND KING HASSAN AS WELL) ALL OF THE SAME GENERATION AND, ONCE JUAN CARLOS SUCCEEDS FRANCO AS KING, SHARE THE SAME CONCERN FOR STABILITY OF MONARCHY. JUDGING BY IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL FOR JOINT SPANISH-JORDANIAN-MOROCCAN COLLABORATION IN PHOSPHATE MARKETING, GOS WHICH ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO TOOK PART IN FIRST WORLD MEETING OF MERCURY PRODUCERS, IS ALSO INTERESTED IN MAXIMIZING ITS INFLUENCE IN MARKETING OF ANOTHER KEY RAW MATERIAL. SECONDLY GOS IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ENOUGH BY PORTUGAL'S CHANGING RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN POSSESSIONS TO CONSIDER SCHEME WHICH WOULD PREVENT SPAIN FROM BECOMING THE WHIPPING BOY OF ARABS AND OTHER THIRD WORLD STATES BECASUSE OF SEEMINGLY RIGID COLONIAL POLICY IN THE SAHARA.
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